



August 2002

FREE HAMBURGERS AT THE AUGUST MEETING!

August Meeting Picnic

The August VOMARC meeting will be held this Wednesday, August 21, at the Sonoma Police Department, 175 First Street West, Sonoma, starting at 6:30 p.m. The picnic will be held in the patio area directly behind the Police Department building. Park in the north parking lot and walk around the south side of the building through the police parking area. We will try to have a gate opened on the north side of the patio area, so check there before walking around.

Dinner will be our annual summer barbecue with hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks and condiments supplied by the club. VOMARC members will have a chance to have eyeball QSOs with members

who they might not have met except on the air.

All members are encouraged to bring a significant other as well as any friends who might be interested in learning more about amateur radio.

Liberty Ride Tracked

This year for the first time, we were able to actively track the position of 2 Support Vehicles during the Liberty Ride. Using APRS and onboard trackers, Jan, K900U, displayed on a color map, the position of the SAG 1 and SAG 4 vehicles as they traversed their assigned routes. With this success, we are embarking on developing 2 or 3 more trackers for use next year. This will help the Net Control station and the Ride organizers

manage the ever-changing logistics of the event.

If you have a GPS unit and a 2 meter rig that could be loaned for this activity, please contact either Jim, K6UUW, or Steve, K2IYQ. The units will be interfaced to either a TNC or a Tiny II tracker to report position via APRS on 144.39 MHz.

Thanks to Randy, AA6GV for the use of his tracker unit and GPS on the SAG 4 unit.

Steve, K2IYQ

For Sale

Triasto 35 Ft crank-up Tower	
\$250(doc)	
Ham-M Rotator w/ Control	
box\$200(doc)	
TimeWave DSP-9+	
\$ 50(doc)	
Phone Patch	\$
10	
SWR Meter (Radio Shack)	
\$ 20	
SWR Meter (HB)	\$
20	
B&W 550-A 5 position Coax	
Switch \$20	
DAIWA CS-201 Coax Switch	\$
15	
DSI 3550 550 MHZ Freq Counter	
\$30(doc)	
ElectroVoice Model 676	
Dynamic Mike with Desk Stand	
\$ 35	
D104 Mike Stand	\$
10	
Speaker with Volt/Amp Meter	\$
10	

Items marked with (doc) have original complete

documentation. These items have been donated to VOMARC by the widow of Paul, W6OVW. To purchase any or all of the above items, please contact Steve, K2IYQ, at 938-5016 or email k2iyq@vom.com.

Guglielmo Marconi did It 100 years ago.

You can do it, too, on Sunday, September 8 during the 3rd annual "Sonoma Fun Fly" on the fields at General Vallejo's Home. (West Spain St. and 3rd St. West.)

This is VOMARC's second year demonstrating Amateur Radio using an antenna carried aloft by a kite. At last years event Jim K6UUW, Steve K2IYQ and Kermit W6JFN operated the station and assisted with flying the 7' kite provided by George K6ITE. Contacts included S58A in Slovenia. This year will be even better, given good winds.

The event begins at Noon and ends at dusk. Free kites will be given away to children and seniors. A free Hay Ride is planed. There will be exhibitions of acrobatic kite flying, Big Kites, a silent auction, games and other entertaining activities.

Two Local Hams Gone

The Valley of the Moon Amateur radio Club has lost two more of its former members.

Kent Sabre, W6KEW, who lived in Yountville the last several

years, passed away the first part of July. Kent was very active in the Club during the 1980s and early 90s. He was involved in the construction of the first Communications Van, the first such vehicle in the county, also in the conversion of the buss into an affective control center.

Chuck Mathis, KC6ZXJ, was active in the Club also during the same period, passed away July 23. Chuck and his wife Audrey had moved out of the area several years ago, and had just returned to Sonoma a few months before Chuck died.

73 to these two friends and fellow VOMARC members.

Kermit, W6JFN

More Frank Jones Stuff

You will be happy to know that a large collection of old radio journals from Frank Jones was given to the California Historical Radio Society (<http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com>).

Thanks to Darrel Jones and Frank's son, I found about this stuff and got it all before it was going to the dumps. Some of these writings date back to 1929. The president of the society, Steve Kushman, came up and picked up the materials and was very happy to get them. The CHRS will be moving into the old KRE radio station site in Berkeley and their plans include a museum of old radio plus a

library. I am not too sure of the whereabouts of Frank's equipment that was donated to a museum. The Foothill College Radio museum is no more and all that stuff is in storage. There is talk of a new museum going in somewhere in San Jose where we might be able to see Frank's equipment on display.

Jim, K6UUW

New VOMARC Webmeister

Jan Bush, AE6FQ, is now handling the VOMARC website. Contact him if you see any changes or additions.

Liberty Ride Report

VOMARC once again helped out by furnishing tactical communications for the 19th Annual Valley Wine Festival and Liberty Ride Bicycle Race benefiting the Sonoma Developmental Center's Eldridge Foundation.

The Eldridge Foundation exists to provide special items for the SDC's developmentally disabled clients. The Liberty Ride is the major annual fundraiser providing the resources enabling the Foundation to achieve its goals.

Alec, K6ASM, organized the amateur radio support with the help of Ken, N6KM, again this year. VOMARC members helping with communications for the Sag Wagons and other communications needs were

Jan, K9OOU, Kermit, W6JFN, Jim, K6UUW, Jan, AE6FQ, Steve, K2IYQ, and Darrel, WD6BOR. Others helping were Bruce, KF6CLH, Holly, KE6MNT, George, K6ITE, Lee, KN6ID, Dorothy, KE6UR, Dick, KF6FZM, Dave, KD6WM, Andrew, KE6HID, and Joe, KF6WGV, who rode the race course on his motorcycle as a Mobile Medic.

The event provided another good opportunity to run an actual working net, and tactical traffic was often running at the rate of one message per minute. No lives were in danger, and no bicyclists were harmed in the conduct of this net, but every ham participating gained valuable experience that will be welcome during an actual disaster or emergency.

Amateur radio is a wonderful hobby, but it is still first and foremost recognized as a public service. Amateur radio enjoys the use of the wealth of radio spectrum dedicated to it only because of recognition of its invaluable public service role.

If you are not already an ACS, or Amateur Communications Services, member, consider joining that important organization.

It isn't an option as much as it is an obligation to the hobby of Amateur Radio.

For more information on participating in ACS, contact Ken McTaggart, N6KM, at 938-2626 or kmct@vom.com.

VOMARC Gets Airborne

Your editor, in a gallant and selfless effort to find something of interest for your entertainment, flew to Oshkosh, Wisconsin this summer. My brave and tireless crew were daughter Jenny, KE6DCS, her partner Devlin, and granddaughter Ashley, KG6LJP.

The event was the annual Experimental Airplane Association fly-in and convention.

The only reason you are reading about the flight is that before leaving I rigged a twenty meter dipole to the airplane so I could work some HF during the flight.

I'm happy to report that it actually worked. No one was more surprised than me.

The airplane is a 1948 Stinson 108-3, which is a four place, high-winged aircraft. When it was originally built, the radio was a Hallicrafter AM tube rig built into the panel. The antennas available were a directional loop wound inside the fuselage behind the passenger compartment for direction finding, and either a tail-to-cabin or a wingtip-to-tail-to-cabin wire antenna for communications.

The wingtip-to-tail antenna was an off-center fed wire with a single lead-in wire running to a ceramic feed-through insulator on the top of the cabin. I felt

that configuration would lend itself well to a twenty meter resonant dipole if I instead fed it with coax and a balun through the vertical stabilizer.

I was able to buy copies of the original factory blueprints showing the radio and antenna installation and, with the help of my brother Claude, AB6OL, fabricated the necessary wingtip and center insulator fittings. I bought tinned Copperweld Superflex 16 gauge stranded wire, even though the original installation used 18 gauge, some stainless aircraft cable and Nicopress fittings, and found some World War II surplus aircraft strain relief springs and ceramic insulators in all that junk piled in my hangar.

After cutting the antenna wire to length for a half-wave dipole in the middle of the twenty meter band, I started pruning using my MFJ 259 antenna analyzer. With a little patient work, I was able to get about a 1.2:1 SWR at 14.2 MHz and crimped everything in place there.

Because I had so much other work to complete before we left, I didn't have a chance to actually try the antenna on the air before departure.

Out of Cottage Grove the second day, I had my daughter Jenny, KE6DCS, in the right seat flying, so I was able to hook up the Ten Tec 555 Scout and give a call. At first I didn't get a response, so I just figured that it

was a nice try, but just too bad for the trip. Then I received a call back from a Southern California ham who traded 59 signal reports.

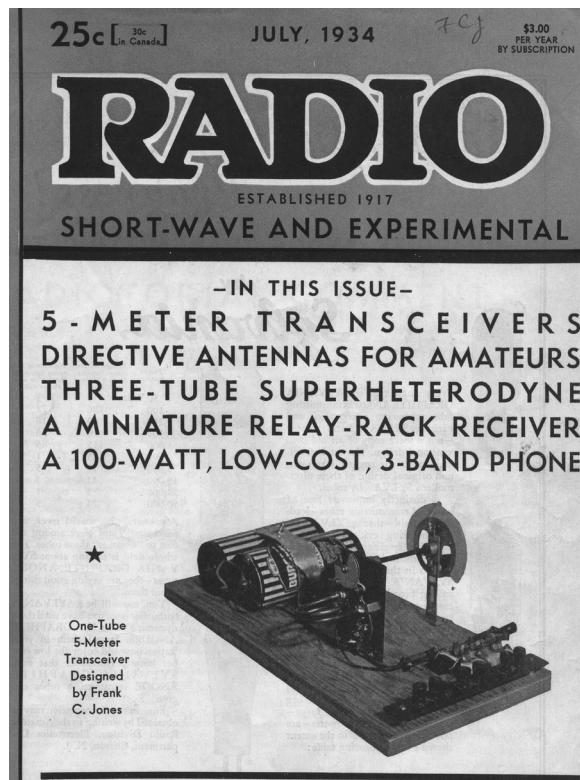
I'm glad I wasn't flying, because the next call I heard was K2IYQ calling a Portland ham. I thought Steve was just kidding around, and gave him a call back. At first he didn't seem to recognize me, but when he did it made my day. He then called Jim, K6UUW, San, N7PIB, and Alan, K6KLL, who all came up on frequency and made contacts.

Altogether, I was able to make about twenty contacts over Oregon, Montana, North Dakota and Texas, including contacts with Australia and Alaska.

Because of the rushed preparations for the trip, I had to hold the rig in my lap and patch the cables into the intercom. Now that I'm home, I will be fabricating a permanent mount for the radio and hard-wiring it into the aircraft audio system.

I just wonder how many hours in the air it would take to work DXCC?

Darrel, WD6BOR



Check out the author...Thanks Jim,
K6UUW

VOMARC MINUTES July 17, 2002

We had another meeting. It was also good.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

I would like to start by thanking all those who helped with the Liberty Ride. Jan Bush should be mentioned because he recently got the training to tow the 2929 emergency trailer and did so for the Liberty Ride. I should also mention that not only did Jan get the training, but include Dan Sorrick, George Maurer and Dick Hanna. Our unit has more people able to move that vehicle than all other units put together. Thanks to Ken, N6KM and Alec, K6ASM for all the work in organizing the whole thing. We added a new twist for this event thanks to Steve, K2IYQ, Randy, AA6GV and Jan, K9OOU. We were able to put APRS in two of the SAG vehicles, which meant that Jan could track their position throughout the entire course. The tracker consists of a GPS unit, a TNC and a 2 meter radio. The group plans to improve on this technology so that it might be possible to offer our services to fire or law enforcement officials to help them if a tracking team is ever needed. The club hosted a VE session this past month. Two applicants took the technician test and two passed. This month's meeting will take place at the Sonoma PD.

It's picnic time!

Bring yourself and your significant other and enjoy some good food. We plan to start serving around 6:30pm. We have the group from the submarine Pampinito lined up for the Sept. meeting. Don't forget to keep your calendar open for the Vintage Festival parade this Sept. 29. VOMARC, as usual, will lend communication support to the police dept. See you at the next meeting.

73, Jim

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 1

A publication of the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President
Wiley C. Post, N2DAR - Vice President
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Treasurer
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Club Trustee
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Membership Chair
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

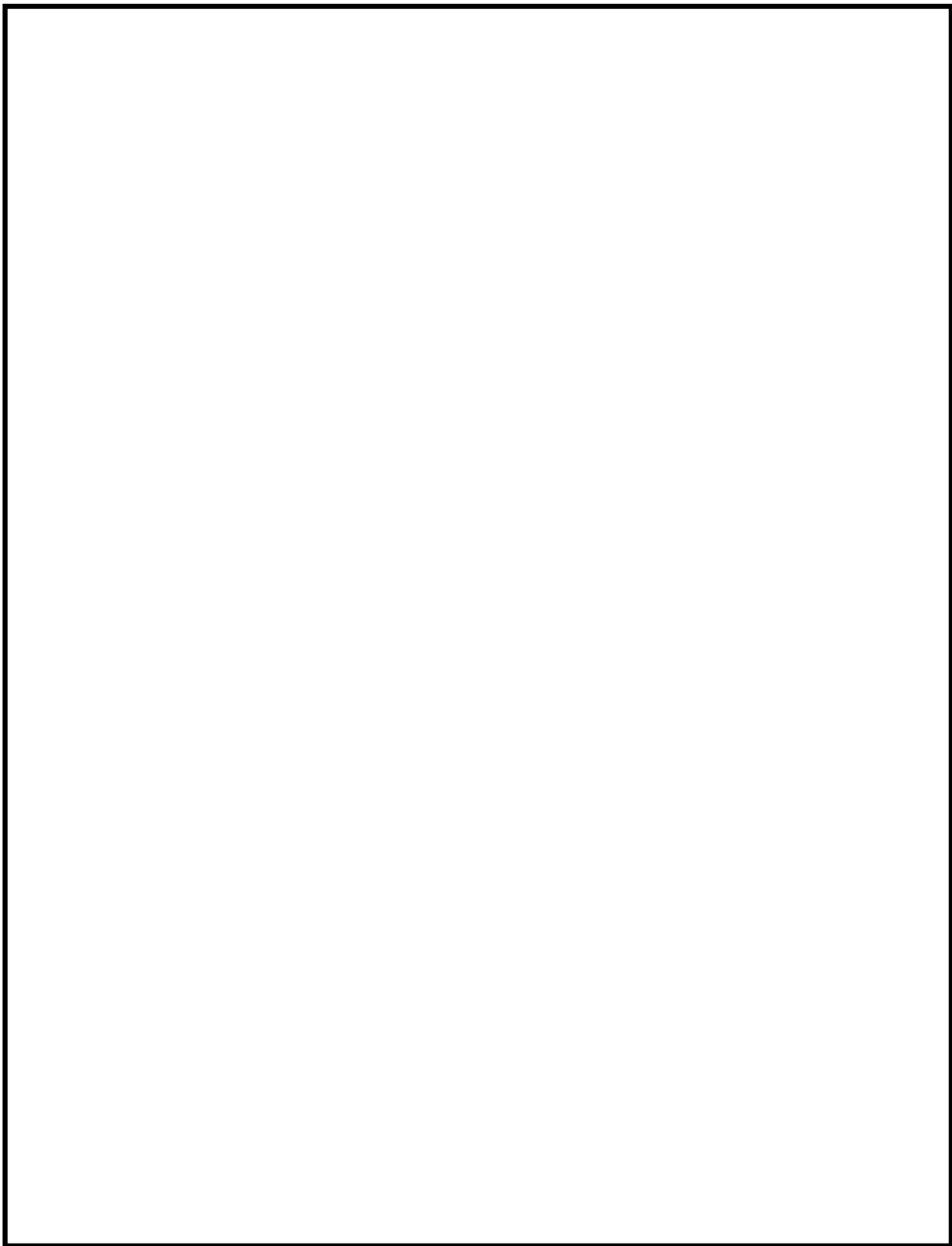
CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or
K6UUW@VOM.COM or
K2IYQ@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95470**

**REMEMBER! THE AUGUST VOMARC MEETING IS THIS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE
SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 FIRST STREET
WEST, SONOMA! CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2002 Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

ARRL Membership Dues: \$39/year; Over 65, \$34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST \$8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

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VOMARC:\$ _____ ARRL:\$ _____ TOTAL:\$ _____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC** - 18958 Carillo
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